



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 27, 2007

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Excellent week for Field Work: Pennsylvania farmers had great weather this past week. Memorial Day weekend was full of sunny weather accompanied by a few scattered showers across the state. Ninety-two percent of the spring plowing is now complete. Warmer weather and sunny skies allowed better days during the planting season, as well as the emergence and growth of several crops. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included completing tillage work, spraying crops, preparing the ground for no till planting, spring plowing, fixing fences, cutting hay, and planting corn, potatoes, soybeans, vegetables and oats.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 27, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
8	40	51	1

Crops: Eighty-four percent of the state's corn crop has been planted. This is only 1 percentage point behind this time last year, and 10 points above the five-year average. The planted crop is 15 percentage points farther along than the previous week. Pennsylvania's corn crop is now 65 percent emerged, which is 9 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Conditions are showing that 81 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Sixty-seven percent of the state's soybeans have been planted. This is 18 percentage points higher than the 5-year average and 4 points above this time last year. Ninety-six percent of the oats in the state have now been planted. Oats planted is now 1 point behind the five-year average. Seventy-six percent of the planted oats have emerged, 22 points behind this time last year and 12 points behind the five-year average. Seventy-nine percent of the winter wheat is in good or excellent condition, this is 7 percentage points lower than the previous week. Seventy percent of the wheat is now in the heading stage, only 3 percentage points behind the five-year average. Barley headed increased significantly to 97 percent. Twenty-one percent of the headed barley is now yellow. This is consistent with the five-year average. Eighty-eight percent of the potato crop has been planted. This is 5 points behind last year, and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. Thirty-two percent of the tobacco crop has been transplanted. Sixty-five percent of the alfalfa standing is in good or excellent condition. Seventy percent of timothy hay standing is in good or excellent condition. Ninety-one percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 52 percent of the first cutting of alfalfa and 14 percent of the first cutting of Timothy hay are complete.

Livestock: Even after the brief showers, pasture soils had no problem drying out. Many farmers were pleased with the grass growth. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 8%, poor 9%, fair 28%, good 43%, and excellent 12%.

U.S. as of May 20, 2007: Warm, dry weather continues to promote fieldwork and crop development in the West. Meanwhile, on the Great Plains, cool, showery weather across portions of the region contrasts with warm, mostly dry weather elsewhere. The warm dry weather on the Great Plains allowed spring planting and other fieldwork to progress. Farther east, planting activities were delayed due to additional rainfall in already flooded lowland areas in the southwestern Corn Belt. Elsewhere in the Corn Belt, there were only temporary fieldwork delays, however, cooler temperatures slowed summer crop emergence and development. In the Southeast dry weather favors fieldwork, but drought conditions continue to linger across the southern Atlantic Coast, stressing pastures and summer crops.

Corn: Growers had planted 92 percent of their intended acreage compared with 91 percent last year and 86 percent for the 5-year average. Planting progressed rapidly in the northern Great Plains under mostly dry conditions, advancing 28 points in South Dakota and 24 points in North Dakota. Elsewhere, planting is nearing completion in the central Great Plains, and western and central Corn Belt. Emergence, at 67 percent, was 5 percentage points ahead of last year and 11 points ahead of normal. The crop emerged rapidly during the week in Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, advancing 29 points or more. The season's first estimates of crop condition showed over three-quarters of the crop rated as good to excellent.

Soybeans: Fifty-nine percent of the intended acreage had been planted, 7 percentage points ahead of last year and 11 percentage points ahead of normal. Planting advanced rapidly in portions of the Great Plains and Corn Belt under favorable weather conditions. Emergence, at 21 percent complete, was 5 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. Emergence gained momentum and advanced 22 points or more in Illinois, Minnesota, and Ohio under good conditions.

Winter Wheat: Heading was 68 percent complete, compared with 70 percent last year and 68 percent for the 5-year average. The crop was more than 90 percent headed in some states. Heading progressed steadily in the Corn Belt, where the crop advanced 31 points in Ohio and 28 points in Indiana, however, heading was most active in Kansas, advancing 38 points during the week.

Small Grains: Barley planting, at 95 percent complete, was 7 points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of the 5-year average. With planting winding down, progress is ahead of the normal pace in all States, especially Minnesota and North Dakota.

Oat growers had planted 98 percent of their acreage, compared with 97 percent last year and 95 percent for the 5-year average. The crop emerged near or ahead of the normal pace in all States, except Pennsylvania.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 27, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 27, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	84	38	64	5	0.73	1	4.30	-1.88	21	302	77	702
Franklin	88	40	65	7	0.28	3	7.23	0.45	27	331	109	753
Meadville	84	39	65	8	0.27	3	3.71	-2.85	27	350	160	762
Mercer	87	42	65	6	0.17	2	6.72	0.13	24	333	103	747
Springboro	86	39	63	4	0.19	3	6.05	0.16	33	258	20	641
Warren	86	41	62	4	0.21	2	6.35	-0.58	25	258	48	655
North Central												
Bradford Region	82	33	59	5	0.23	3	5.54	-1.27	29	212	79	557
Emporium	87	38	64	8	0.52	2	6.34	-0.88	24	266	111	678
Kane	84	34	60	6	0.39	2	6.80	-0.34	27	168	40	514
Laporte	82	39	61	2	0.19	3	6.55	-0.18	27	215	-15	586
Lock Haven	87	40	66	6	0.31	3	5.85	-0.43	21	355	96	779
Port Allegany	84	35	60	4	0.41	2	5.34	-0.99	25	202	36	561
Renovo	88	40	65	5	0.77	3	6.62	0.34	22	350	91	773
Ridgway	84	36	61	5	0.86	3	6.79	-0.43	26	200	45	584
Stevenson Dam	87	40	64	8	0.55	2	5.54	-1.68	22	288	133	697
Towanda	88	34	62	3	0.08	2	4.80	-1.09	25	231	-6	608
Wellsboro	84	35	60	5	0.99	3	5.90	0.72	21	207	72	561
Williamsport	90	40	66	5	0.03	1	4.45	-2.09	22	407	87	855
Northeast												
Hawley	87	33	61	4	0.10	2	7.00	0.12	20	222	54	610
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	86	38	64	3	0.02	1	5.55	-0.55	21	353	72	780
Susquehanna	86	35	62	6	0.20	3	6.11	-0.98	25	235	83	621
West Central												
Butler	87	43	65	6	0.07	2	4.91	-1.81	23	337	87	757
New Castle	89	35	66	7	0.20	2	3.90	-2.14	21	372	129	803
Slippery Rock	89	41	66	8	0.75	2	5.62	-0.69	25	381	164	807
Central												
Altoona/Blair	84	42	65	4	0.04	1	4.15	-2.15	19	402	106	824
DuBois	82	40	64	5	1.31	3	7.02	0.23	27	334	110	743
Lewistown	88	42	66	4	1.34	2	6.76	0.27	18	392	45	826
Middletown	88	46	69	5	0.35	2	4.40	-2.54	15	500	101	959
Prince Gallitzi	85	35	61	4	0.00	0	5.12	-3.21	21	265	67	660
Selinsgrove	84	41	64	4	1.18	2	5.78	-0.73	20	325	34	750
State College	86	46	67	7	0.15	2	4.97	-1.05	20	422	143	850
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	89	40	65	3	0.01	1	7.41	0.21	20	409	68	849
Lehighnton	87	39	64	2	0.16	2	6.29	-0.80	23	335	11	763
Matamoras	88	36	62	2	0.00	0	7.52	-0.19	20	266	-4	678
Mt_Pocono	85	33	62	6	0.04	1	7.26	-0.79	25	264	136	645
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	48	69	8	0.08	2	5.64	-1.26	23	524	223	972
Derry	85	37	63	3	0.35	2	8.52	1.78	19	359	101	779
Myersdale	85	38	62	3	0.15	2	5.10	-2.63	23	223	-26	598
Mount Pleasant	84	40	65	7	0.20	3	5.99	-1.76	25	355	148	786
Pittsburgh Intl	86	47	68	6	0.46	2	6.12	-0.14	22	478	151	921
Connellsville	86	40	67	5	0.00	0	5.65	-1.86	24	429	86	872
Waynesburg	85	44	65	5	0.01	1	4.77	-2.14	23	375	96	811
South Central												
Biglerville	87	44	67	3	0.19	2	5.28	-1.35	16	445	47	897
Everett	85	39	62	2	0.19	2	5.51	-1.00	18	267	-12	679
Hanover	87	40	65	2	0.00	0	4.96	-1.67	15	420	22	863
Harrisburg_AP	89	42	68	4	0.30	1	3.45	-3.49	13	480	74	942
South Mountain	87	40	63	3	0.07	1	5.95	-0.35	18	325	36	739
York	87	40	65	1	0.00	0	5.40	-1.40	18	406	-3	856
Southeast												
Green Lane	88	43	66	5	0.21	1	9.10	1.86	21	418	102	859
Hamburg	88	43	66	6	0.53	2	8.90	0.78	18	448	190	895
West_Chester	89	40	65	2	0.62	1	11.03	3.39	15	401	12	838
Lancaster	88	43	66	4	0.00	0	6.17	-0.61	14	432	88	881
Neshaminy Falls	87	42	64	2	0.42	2	12.39	4.46	19	361	25	788
New Holland	90	48	67	5	0.00	0	6.80	0.02	15	469	125	911
Philadelphia	88	51	69	4	0.69	1	11.22	4.33	15	548	106	1,020
Philadelphia NE	90	48	69	4	0.36	2	11.67	4.78	19	535	93	1,007
Reading	90	42	67	5	0.75	1	5.99	-1.64	17	470	147	922
Valley Forge Na	90	38	66	1	0.33	2	9.78	2.40	22	407	-19	856
Willow Grove	88	48	67	5	0.40	1	9.65	1.72	19	465	129	912

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy Behney (FSA) - Adams County's soil condition is very dry with little to no rainfall in most areas last week. Saturday and Sunday afternoon/evening the Arendtsville area received 0.5 inch and Sunday Bendersville area received about 0.5" but no other parts of the county received anything. Daytime temperatures have been in the 80's and nighttime temps in the 50-60's with some humidity.

Corn and soybeans continue to be planted in the county. All of the crops in Adams County need rainfall desperately. The county is 2-3 inches short of rainfall for this time of the year. Some corn and soybeans are emerging but a lot has not due to lack of moisture. Hay and haylage continue to be made with the weather conditions near perfect for this.

Apples and peaches and fruit crops are doing well in the county. They too could also use some rainfall to help with the crop. Sweet corn is also being planted but is slow to emerge also. Strawberries are being harvested in the county with a nice crop. Some moisture would also help the strawberries also.

Overall Adams County had nice week of weather but needs some rainfall for the crops.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Hot and dry week, excellent for making hay and it seems as if everybody was chopping or baling hay this week. Some reports of insect damage now due to the hot and dry weather, but most reports are the crop was shorter than normal due to cool weather earlier. Some areas have missed earlier showers resulting in lower yields. Corn and soybeans are looking like normal crops at this time. Wheat and barley prospects are very good at this time.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier - A good week for field work. Grass haylage was made and most of the corn is in the ground. Orchard grass hay is being made. Topsoil moisture is getting short. A shower over the weekend helped, but we need a good, steady rain to replenish the topsoil.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - This was a good week for field work, hay making well under way. We got 1/4 inch of rainfall for the week.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - It's getting dry, we need rain.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Weather co-operated for most of the week keeping farmers in the fields finishing planting and harvesting first crop hay for haylage. Planting soybeans and making hay will be the big push for this week.

FAYETTE COUNTY, Don Fretts - The Leaf Beetle is attacking wheat and oats.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner - Many farmers finished planting corn, soybeans, and vegetables. Haylage is being harvested. We do need rain.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter - Pasture fields are beginning to show symptoms of dry soils. Row crops are off to good starts in general.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - Thunder showers Friday .8", Saturday .1", Sunday .4". Showers were very spotty.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger - Crop planting advancing nicely. We could use a good rain.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde - Re-growth of pastures is looking good, but could use some moisture. We've gotten very little rain lately. It's time to control the weeds in the meadows. The thistles and buttercups are especially nasty this year. Early no-till corn looking strong. Local farmers are trying a new no-till tobacco transplanter. So far pleasant results; time will give us more data.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth, Jr - Thunder storms were widely scattered, with some areas getting a significant amount of rain, wind and some pea sized hail. Moisture is getting short in many areas. A good week for field work including planting corn, soybeans, tobacco, potatoes and making hay. Wheat is beginning to turn yellow.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - Dry weather continues, only 0.13" this week, 1.78" for the month. Hay making is going as fast as possible. Most corn has been planted maybe half of the soybeans. Wheat is heading, rye is being mowed and baled for straw.

POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton - Excellent week for fieldwork. Corn planting, haylage making and some tillage work were completed. Hay is growing slow and needs rain.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The week was hot and dry; however, a few areas had over one inch of rainfall Saturday evening. The crops are suffering as a result of the heat and dry conditions, with the recently planted soybeans being slow to emerge. Many farmers have made dry hay and haylage, and the reported yields are well below normal. The wheat is beginning to head and looks very good as well as the barley. The main activities for the week were corn planting, spraying, and haymaking.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney - It's getting very dry. There were some spotty showers during the weekend.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump - I have been hearing reports of producers cutting hay this week. The weather has been cooperating and the hay is drying well.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Above normal temperatures and dry weather made for good planting and excellent early-season hay harvesting conditions. A few late-week scattered showers were very beneficial to newly planted crops.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 27, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	92	99	93
Corn, planted	89	88	79
Corn, emerged	65	67	56
Barley, heading or headed	97	100	93
Barley, turning yellow	21	31	21
Wheat, heading or headed	70	88	73
Oats, planted	96	100	97
Oats, emerged	76	98	88
Soybeans, planted	67	63	49
Soybeans, emerged	38	26	21
Tobacco, transplanted	32	74	34
Potatoes, planted	88	93	84
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	52	40	34
Timothy clover, 1st cutting	14	9	11

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 27, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	1	18	69	12
Wheat	0	2	19	59	20
Oats	0	4	41	50	5
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	5	29	52	13
Timothy clover stand	0	4	26	63	7
Quality of hay made	0	0	9	57	34
Pasture	8	9	28	43	12
Peaches	0	0	2	54	44
Apples	0	0	0	51	49

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